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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Waukesha Parade Commission Seeks Concept Memorial Designs**

**WAUKESHA, Wis.** - In January 2022, Waukesha Mayor Shawn Reilly established a Parade Memorial Commission. The mission is to create a memorial that thoughtfully honors all the victims of the Waukesha Christmas Parade tragedy, provides an opportunity for reflection, and represents healing as a community.

The Waukesha Parade Memorial Commission is currently seeking concept memorial designs for two memorials that fulfill that mission. One memorial would be a smaller site of recognition along Main Street, the parade route. The second memorial would be a larger memorial in the City-owned Grede Park, which would allow for contemplative space to accommodate all that visit.

"The City has endured a horrific tragedy. The Commission looks forward to reviewing the designs and creating a memorial that will allow the community to always have a place to reflect and honor the victims, well beyond this point in time. Our concept for a memorial needs to be remembered many years from now. We are hoping this memorial reminds us to be always vigilant in protecting innocent people enjoying events in all communities," said Gerald Couri, Chair of the Parade Memorial Commission.

Artists, architects, landscape architects or others with similar skill sets are encouraged to submit design proposals for one or both permanent memorials sought by the Parade Memorial Commission. Those interested in submitting a proposal should review the detailed request and complete their submissions by Friday, July 8, 2022. The detailed request and requirements are available on the City's website (<https://bit.ly/WaukeshaParadeMemorial>)

The City of Waukesha, Wisconsin is an award-winning, growing community located along the banks of the Fox River, 15 miles west of Milwaukee. The City is the seventh largest in the state with a population of approximately 72,000 people. On November 21, 2021, during the annual Waukesha Christmas Parade, tragedy struck when a vehicle drove through the parade route, killing six and physically injuring more than seventy others. Hundreds of others were left with mental and emotional scars as they witnessed the horrific events that unfolded. The community came together after that event as #WaukeshaStrong and continues to take steps toward healing, including working to create permanent memorials.

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